

# MINUTES

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room  
John A. Hannah Building  
608 West Allegan  
Lansing, Michigan

January 14, 2014  
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman  
Mr. John C. Austin, President  
Dr. Casandra E. Ulbrich, Vice President  
Mr. Daniel Varner, Secretary  
Dr. Richard Zeile, Treasurer  
Ms. Michelle Fecteau, NASBE Delegate  
Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny  
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus  
Mrs. Eileen Weiser  
Mr. Craig Ruff, representing Governor Rick Snyder, ex officio

Also Present: Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year

### **REGULAR MEETING**

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 9:47 a.m.

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**Ayes: Austin, Fecteau, Ramos-Montigny, Straus, Ulbrich,  
Weiser, Zeile**

**Absent: Varner**

**The motion carried.**

Mr. Varner joined the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

#### III. INTRODUCTION OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Mrs. Marilyn Schneider, State Board Executive, introduced members of the State Board of Education and the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

IV. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan expressed sympathy to Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny on the recent passing of her brother, Ismael Loa (Mike) Ramos; Mrs. Eileen Weiser on the loss of her family friend, Daniel; and Michigan Department of Education staff on the loss of their former coworker, Charlene Merrick.

Mr. Flanagan said Michigan received a \$51.7 million Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. He said Susan Broman, Deputy Superintendent, Office of Great Start; and Jeremy Reuter, Special Assistant, Office of Great Start; presented on this at the December Board meeting. Mr. Flanagan said, although the Michigan Department of Education was the lead agency, there were many people and partner agencies and organizations who worked tirelessly to submit the successful grant application to expand early learning opportunities for low-income children in Michigan.

V. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:49 a.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

VI. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Flanagan called the Committee of the Whole Meeting to order at 9:50 a.m.

VII. PRESENTATION ON REVISED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS AND PROCESS

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services; and Ms. Linda Forward, Director, Education Improvement and Innovation; presented on the Revised School Improvement Framework and District Improvement Framework Documents and Process.

Mr. Flanagan said the School Improvement Framework process was last approved in 2005, and changes in the educational landscape required revision of the process and the creation of a District Improvement Framework process.

Mr. Flanagan said following a period of public comment, State Board of Education approval will be requested in March.

Information was shared via a [PowerPoint presentation](#) and video.

Board member discussion included survey content and feedback; framework for use by all public schools; the importance of trust in a school climate; revisions based on dated language, policy changes and research regarding working together in learning communities; self-assessment dialogue to aid improvement at the beginning; process intended to be positive rather than punitive; importance of relationships; and a robust system of multiple assessments.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Teresa Weatherall Neal, Superintendent, Grand Rapids Public Schools; Mr. Mark Frost, Principal, Innovation Central High School; and Mr. John Helmholdt, Executive Director of Communication Services; presented on Grand Rapids Public Schools Transformation Plan and Innovation Central High School.

Ms. Lupe Ramos-Montigny said she is a proud member of the Grand Rapids community and a retired educator, and she is pleased to share the educational achievements that are possible when a community works together toward the mission of educating students.

Mrs. Weatherall Neal shared information on the Transformation Plan for Grand Rapids Public Schools via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Mr. Frost shared information on Innovation Central High School. He said Innovation Central High School houses four Centers of Innovation including Academy of Business, Leadership & Entrepreneurship; Academy for Design & Construction; Academy of Health Sciences & Technology; and Academy of Modern Engineering.

Board member discussion included acknowledgement of the civic leaders have for the leadership of Superintendent Weatherall Neal, barriers to transformation, transparent communication with all stakeholders, the diverse array of learning environments, responsiveness to provide options that parents seek, themed schools, advanced placement credits accepted by universities, endorsement from the community, pushing the boundaries of teaching and learning, training for evaluators, the importance of stability and continuity, ensuring equitable results, embracing diversity, leadership of local school board, and education as a social justice.

IX. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:15 a.m. and reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

X. DISCUSSION REGARDING MICHIGAN EDUCATION ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE RESEARCH

Mr. John Austin, President, State Board of Education, led the Discussion Regarding Michigan Education Organization and Finance Research.

Mr. Austin said the Board has set a priority to lead in developing a vision and comprehensive plan for redesigning Michigan school organization and finance. He said as a state we need to determine the policies and financial support system that best nurture student learning and outcomes. Mr. Austin said

there are big structural issues and unintended consequences surrounding education organization and finance that are beginning to affect achievement, as evidenced by recent headlines and statistics.

Mr. Austin said it is the constitutional charge of the State Board of Education to make recommendations to the Legislature and Governor on the financial requirements for education.

Mr. Austin said the Board needs to lead thoughtful discussion on determining the issues and challenges and how to attend to them. Mr. Austin said he is encouraging the Board, over the next several months, to hear from a broad view of perspectives concerning Michigan education organization and finance.

Mr. Austin said the plan includes soliciting independent, expert analyses from a variety of perspectives; learning from other states; engaging with the education stakeholder community; and public input during listening sessions, forums, and State Board of Education meetings. He said Board analysis and recommendations will be developed, and the Board will continually look for areas of agreement among themselves, the Legislature and the Governor.

Dr. Ulbrich said Mr. Austin, Mrs. Weiser and she have been participating in a bipartisan school funding workgroup with Chairman Bill Rogers and other members of the House Appropriations Subcommittees on School Aid and Education, and that work should continue. Dr. Ulbrich said she is also supportive of the plan outlined by Mr. Austin, and she recommends that a timeline be established for agreement and recommendations.

Dr. Zeile said he welcomes the examination of school funding to look at how things work, and dissents from some of the assumptions that the system is broken. He said per pupil spending has increased. Dr. Zeile said demographic shifting is a factor and there may be a need to address related policies. He said there is an assumption that there is a connection between educational achievement and funding, and one way to address funding is through partnerships with private entities.

Mrs. Straus said it is a critical issue, and monthly presentations at Board meetings is a good idea. She said she agrees with Dr. Ulbrich that there should be a timeline.

Mr. Varner said he is supportive of the plan to hear from stakeholders regarding needs and issues.

Ms. Fecteau said she agrees that it is critical and feeds into other issues. She said she hopes to get something done by the end of the year. She said she is hopeful that there will be discussion regarding schools with high poverty and additional funding, and not just test scores ranking need. She said there are varying calculations on per pupil spending, and clarification would be helpful.

Mrs. Weiser said relationships are important, and the documents being distributed should be as friendly as possible to common bipartisan history.

Mr. Ruff said the issue is important, and it should not be limited to finance. He said student achievement, organization and management should also be included in the discussions.

Mr. Flanagan said there should be a soft landing for districts experiencing a sudden decline in enrollment. He said there are many schools in deficit.

Mr. Austin said based on discussion, revisions will be made to the document, including a proposed timeline culminating after the November election. He said Board members are welcome to propose experts with varying perspectives to present at future Board meetings.

The Michigan State Board of Education – Proposed Work Program Driving Understanding and Proposing Solutions to Michigan School Organization and Finance Needs was presented to the Board for approval during the Regular meeting.

XI. RECESS

The Board recessed the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 11:52 a.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting at 1:08 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XII. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN

Mr. Flanagan asked the Deputy Superintendents to introduce new employees.

Dr. Venessa Keesler, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services, introduced Ms. Lynn Pensari, Low Incidence Outreach; and Ms. Ashley Kemmer, Office of Special Education.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

1. Ms. Lorna Holmes, Hillsdale, Michigan. Ms. Holmes shared verbal comments and written information on implementing Next Generation Science Standards. Ms. Holmes provided 1,014 signatures supporting climate science.
2. Ms. Janice Pardy, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Ms. Pardy provided verbal comments and written information regarding National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification.

3. Ms. Yonee Bryant-Kuiphoff, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. Bryant-Kuiphoff, representing the Michigan Science Teachers Association, shared verbal comments on Next Generation Science Standards.
4. Ms. Nancy Karre, Battle Creek, Michigan. Ms. Karre, representing the Battle Creek Mathematics and Science Center, shared verbal comments on Next Generation Science Standards.
5. Mr. Joseph S. Krajcik, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mr. Krajcik, representing Michigan State University CREATE for STEM, shared verbal comments regarding Next Generation Science Standards.

XIV. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- D. Approval of Minutes of Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 17, 2013

**Mr. Varner moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 17, 2013.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Ruff left the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

XV. RECESS

The Board recessed the Regular Meeting at 1:33 p.m. to reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

XVI. PRESENTATION ON BRIDGING THE MIDDLE – COLLABORATION OF AGENCIES PROVIDING SERVICES TO MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Dr. Angelique Day, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Wayne State University; and Dr. Cheryl Somers Associate Professor, College of Education, Wayne State University; presented on Bridging the Middle – Collaboration of Agencies Providing Services to Middle School Students.

Ms. Michelle Fecteau said she has fostered children for twenty years and serves on the Advisory Board of the Wayne State University Transition to Independence Program (TIP). She said the purpose of TIP is to increase college access and improve graduation rates of foster care youth in southeast Michigan. Ms. Fecteau said her colleagues, Dr. Day and Dr. Somers, are wonderful people doing wonderful things for students.

Dr. Day said Bridging the Middle is a pilot project to increase educational stability and improve the educational outcomes of middle school-aged foster youth in Wayne County. Dr. Day and Dr. Somers shared information via a [PowerPoint presentation](#).

Board member discussion included pilot schools, consortium of schools to maximize connections to a larger system, leadership through central coordinator and team approach, importance of data in a useable format following the student for a coordinated approach, the need for structural reform, and sharing information about the program in postsecondary schools of education.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 2:18 p.m. and reconvened the Regular Meeting.

**REGULAR MEETING**

XVIII. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Mr. Austin said he would forego his President’s Report.

XIX. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Report

- F. Human Resources Report
- G. Report on Property Transfer Decisions
- H. Report on Teacher Certification Revocation Decision

Grants

- I. Report on Grant Awards
  - 1. 2013-2014 Integration of Michigan Merit Curriculum Grant – Initial
  - 2. 2013-2014 Statewide Transfer/Articulation Agreement Partnership Grant – Initial
  - 3. 2013-2014 Section 22.i: Technology Readiness Infrastructure Grant – Initial
  - 4. 2013-2014 Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants – Initial
  - 5. 2013-2014 State School Aid Act Section 99(6) Mathematics and Science Centers – Initial

6. 2013-2014 State School Aid Act Section 99(7) Mathematics and Science Centers STEM Support – Initial
7. 2013-2014 Title IIA: Statewide Technical Assistance Center Grants – Initial
8. 2013-2014 Title IIA: Statewide Technical Assistance Center Grants – Initial, Continuation
9. 2013-2014 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs – Amendment
10. 2013-2014 Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs – Amendment
11. 2013-2014 Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting – Amendment
12. 2013-2014 Title VI, Part B, Rural and Low Income School Program – Initial
13. 2013-2014 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Initial

Mr. Flanagan said there will be a Joint House and Senate Hearing regarding the Report on Options for Assessments Aligned with the Common Core State Standards on January 15.

Mr. Flanagan provided an update on the plan to advance the state’s revised Science Standards toward Board approval later this year. He said the timeline includes: public comment on implementation between now and then with the field and other stakeholders; a presentation to the Board at its November meeting; a presentation of the proposed standards to the Legislature following that; and Board consideration for final adoption at its December Board meeting.

XX. REPORT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. Gary Abud, Jr., 2013-2014 Michigan Teacher of the Year, presented the Report of the Michigan Teacher of the Year. He shared photos and a video highlighting his activities during the past month serving as Michigan Teacher of the Year.

XXI. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin Ackley, Director, Public and Governmental Affairs, presented the State and Federal Legislative Update.

Mr. Ackley said the legislature is back in session, and currently there are no committee meetings scheduled other than the January 15 Joint House and Senate Hearing regarding the Report on Options for Assessments Aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

Dr. Ulbrich, Chair of the Board’s Legislative Committee, said the Committee met on January 9. Dr. Ulbrich said based on discussion during the December



Board meeting, the Board's Legislative Committee discussed a proposed policy on the school turnaround district and strategy. She said the Committee discussed additional options for management of schools placed into the State School Reform district. She said currently the Education Achievement Authority is the only option. She said the committee also discussed qualifications and expectations for any entity that may manage schools placed into the State School Reform district.

Dr. Ulbrich read a draft policy statement that was distributed.

**Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Weiser, that the State Board of Education approve the State Board of Education Policy on School Turnaround District and Strategy.**

Discussion followed, and there was Board consensus to modify the policy statement.

The vote was taken on the motion, as amended by discussion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The State Board of Education Policy on School Turnaround District and Strategy is attached as Exhibit A.

XXII. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPOSED WORK PROGRAM DRIVING UNDERSTANDING AND PROPOSING SOLUTIONS TO MICHIGAN SCHOOL ORGANIZATION AND FINANCE NEEDS

This item was discussed during the Committee of the Whole, and there was Board consensus to add it to the Discussion/Action agenda.

Mr. Austin distributed a revised document that incorporated changes based on discussion earlier in the meeting.

**Mr. Varner moved, seconded by Ms. Ramos-Montigny, that the State Board of Education approve the Michigan State Board of Education – Proposed Work Program Driving Understanding and Proposing Solutions to Michigan School Organization and Finance Needs, as attached to the President's memorandum dated January 9, 2014, and as modified by discussion.**

The vote was taken on the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

The Michigan State Board of Education Proposed Work Program Driving Understanding and Proposing Solutions to Michigan School Organization and Finance Needs is attached as Exhibit B.

### XXIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Ms. Fecteau said there is concern in the special education community that pending special education rule changes are removing parental rights. Dr. Keesler said special education administrative rules follow a rule making process that includes public comment. Mr. Flanagan said if Board members would like additional information, it can be provided.

Ms. Fecteau said she has heard that schools are being approached about coming to the Education Achievement Authority (EAA). She asked if there is anyone in the Michigan Department of Education that is meeting with school districts about voluntarily joining the EAA. Mr. Flanagan said it is likely one of the many rumors that have been circulating.

### XXIV. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mr. Flanagan said Board members may contact a member of the Agenda Planning Committee comprised of Mr. Austin, Dr. Ulbrich and Mr. Varner with suggestions for agenda topics.

### XXV. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. Tuesday, February 11, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- B. Tuesday, March 11, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)
- C. Tuesday, April 8, 2014 (9:30 a.m.)

### XXVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

The video archive of the meeting is available at [www.michigan.gov/sbe](http://www.michigan.gov/sbe).

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Varner  
Secretary

**Michigan State Board of Education  
Policy on School Turnaround District and Strategy**

The State Board of Education supports an effective turnaround strategy for chronically under-performing schools. Schools that have not made satisfactory progress after three years should be placed into the State School Reform District, under the control of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), that may place the school under the management of an entity (including itself). Such entities should have a verifiable track record of educational success, or a demonstrable likelihood of success, at managing school turnaround efforts.

Therefore, the State Board of Education calls for legislation that requires the MDE to: (1) establish clear performance standards that would have to be met by any entity before it would be eligible to manage a school that has been placed into the State School Reform District; and (2) define the process by which schools are placed in and removed from the management of educational entities to which they are assigned by the State School Reform Office and how schools are ultimately returned to their original districts.

Finally, the State Board of Education recognizes that results require resources, and calls on the State Legislature to appropriate adequate funding for school improvement activities.

Adopted January 14, 2014

**Michigan State Board of Education – Proposed Work Program**  
**Driving Understanding and Proposing Solutions to Michigan School**  
**Organization and Finance Needs**

Michigan's students are not making academic gains seen in other states, and our schools are facing increasing financial pressures. While there is no current consensus on the specific tactics for change in how Michigan organizes and finances education in order to improve learning outcomes, there is a broadly shared sense that the current system needs substantial rework. Twenty years after Proposal A, Michigan has seen many changes in school organization, service delivery, new reforms and demands, and changes in fiscal climate, tax and spending policies. The goal of any future changes must be to support and improve student learning and outcomes.

That is why the State Board of Education (SBE), constitutionally charged to provide leadership for public education and make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor on the financial requirements for same, unanimously approved on June 18, 2013 as our first priority for 2013-14: *"Lead in developing a vision and comprehensive plan for redesigning Michigan school organization and finance that supports attainment of robust learning standards, necessary skills, and good outcomes for all students; and that provides the requisite, predictable and fairly delivered public funding to reasonably achieve these goals."*

In executing this priority the SBE has initiated a process to help identify key issues; drive understanding of the interrelationships of school finance, organization policy, and student outcomes; learn from the experience of other states; and ultimately make recommendations concerning improvements in Michigan's school organization and finance model.

Over recent months we have commissioned research on Michigan's school finance situation, begun examination of the frameworks of other states, solicited input from education experts, and engaged in a working committee with Legislative leaders around similar goals and interests.

Over the coming months the SBE proposes to enhance these efforts, in concert with Michigan's education stakeholders, towards developing a compelling, practical, broadly informed understanding of the issues, and recommendations for changes to Michigan's School Organization and Finance model to better support student outcomes and achievement, and as recommendations to the Legislature and Governor in 2015. The target is November 2014.

### Goals for State Board Action

It is proposed that during 2014 the State Board of Education will conduct a set of activities towards three goals:

1. Contribute to the understanding of the factors driving school finance challenges and impacts on outcomes in Michigan; to inform the SBE, the public, and key stakeholders and encourage as much consensus as possible on the “facts” of the case;
2. Examine and learn from effective school organization and finance models in other peer and high-achieving state systems;
3. Identify and make recommendations for changes in Michigan school organization and finance policy to better support achievement; providing the broad contours of the reworking of Proposal A, to reflect new education and demographic realities and opportunities

### Activities to Execute Work Program

1. Solicit independent, expert analysis concerning Michigan’s school organization and finance trends and achievement effects, major issues, remedies, and recommendations from a variety of perspectives.
2. Solicit independent analysis and expert perspective concerning what can be learned from other state systems, around school finance and organization and the relationship to achievement.
3. Engage with and invite the Michigan education stakeholder community to share perspective and recommendations for school organization and finance changes.
4. Dedicate time at every SBE meeting throughout the year for expert analysis, stakeholder perspective and Board discussion.
5. Conduct regional public forums to discuss school organization, finance issues, achievement impacts, and ideas for change.
6. Develop and approve an SBE analysis and recommendations for Legislative and policy action around education finance changes to improve achievement and outcomes.
7. Continue to look for areas of agreement and shared action with the Legislature and Governor in short-term.

Approved January 14, 2014